

NEWS FROM GENERAL DIX'S DEPARTMENT.

Our Suffolk Correspondence.

SYRACUSE, April 28, 1863.

An Ouid—Work on Our Fortifications Still in Progress—Impressing Negroes—Troubles of Business Men—A Blockade Runner, etc., &c.

The enemy for the last few days has been unusually quiet—a fact that engenders grave suspicions in the minds of our military men. It is supposed, and some even go so far as to gravely hint that they have it from authentic sources, that the rebels are making formidable preparations for the reduction of the town by siege. Whether this be true, or whether it be merely the vaporizing of young military sensationalists, our soldiery in authority attach enough importance to the demonstration sent or humored, whatever it may be, or the possibility of its being made, to make us consider the invulnerability of possible. On all sides new forts, of immense proportions, are a ringing up, as were like to mushrooms, in a single night. Heavy guns of the most approved pattern are being mounted, and all the artificers of science with their charge are already listed on our books. Even if the enemy surround these, we have our last resort—our flesh and blood bulwarks, our courageous soldiers, with their cold, gleaming steel. All the contrabands in town have been impounded by the military authorities, and are kept on hand, and on the destruction of our breakwaters, and the building of new fortifications.

General Dix seems determined that his men shall not wear them out, but rather than handing the picket duty to those who number, while a number of negroes are rolling idly about the town, or riding fine horses on frivolous errands. General Corcoran's front our pickets extend almost to the woods; but the enemy holds himself cautiously above.

General Getty's is the line most exposed to attacks from the rebel sharpshooters; but even then the first day or two has been marked by unusual quiet. Occasionally, through the night, one of our great guns breaks the stillness with theullen roar, and the sharp whistling of a shell; but for the most part we are blessed with peaceful repose.

The enemy, you may rest assured, is not quiet for nothing. He is doubtless accumulating his thunder, to launch which will complete the work of subjugation on some of these quiet days. Sooner or later the storm must come, at least so think and command our commanders.

Parties here have here find it extremely impossible to obtain goods, owing to the late arrangements placed on the part of the rebels, and to no means as timely as it should be, and luxuries are scarce.

There seem no desire on the part of spectators to take advantage of the present excitement and the consequent scarcity and dearth of supplies. You will, we are sure, record with an appropriate note that the General Fact issued orders at the very beginning of this trouble warning them of the consequences should they attempt to take advantage of the necessities of the soldiers and the people.

It is now an apparent prospect of a fight now there was last week, and I begin to think we may have to wait a month for it, unless our forces go out and send the enemy howling back Richmonds.

One of our transports, with a volunteer crew and guard for the occasion, went down the river last night, with the intention of running the blockade. Heavy firing was heard on the Nansemond at midnight; but no news has been received here of the result.

Our Fortress Monroe Correspondence.

FORTRESS MONROE, April 26, 1863.

Affairs at Suffolk—Bravery of Lieutenant Heron, of the Ninety-ninth New York Volunteers, in Running Rebel Batteries—How General Dix Appreciates Pluck of Volunteers—An Armed Fleet to be Attached to This Corps—Discreet Conduct of a Regiment in General Getty's Division—A Just and Severe Order Promulgated in Their Honor—Where They Have to Deal with Rebels Now—Col. Miller Assigned to This Department as Commissary of Musters—The Weather—A Charitable Enterprise, &c.

Affairs at Suffolk remain in statu quo. Our troops are keeping the enemy at bay, while the rebels do not hazard an advance. During the excitement at the commencement of this campaign two of the quartermaster's boats, the steamer Swan and propeller Commerce—were sent to Suffolk, with provisions and ammunition. Before these vessels could return, however, the Nansemond river was obstructed with rebel batteries, and, in consequence, nothing except gunboats could pass, and even such an enterprise was extra hazardous. Yesterday Major General Dix ordered the two aforementioned vessels to be brought down; but neither pilot nor engineer could be found to run the boats. Lieutenant Heron, of the Ninety-ninth regiment New York Volunteers, and Captain Sommers volunteered to run the batteries, and bring the Commerce down and have the Swan follow. General Dix gladly accepted his services; and this morning at four o'clock the two steamers left the wharf at Suffolk, and arrived here safely about nine o'clock. The undertaking of piloting a vessel down the river is a quiet, as far as I can learn everything is quiet, excepting some slight skirmishing between the pickets.

To-morrow, the 30th instant, having been appointed by the President of the United States a day of general election, the election will be observed as usual. Brigadier General Vieis has issued the following general order on the subject:

GENERAL ORDER, No. 20.
HEADQUARTERS, WASHINGTON, D. C., April 29, 1863.

That there is a system of collusion between the blockading fleet of Charleston harbor and those blockade runners who bring in Yankee goods or carry out cotton, is established beyond question; and that the vessels captured by the Federal are only those freighted with stores for the Confederate government.

High Price for Substitutes.

INTERESTING FROM THE SOUTH.

The Federal Currency Greedily.

The whole North is seized with "peculiar fever," even worse, with postal currency of the fractional parts of a dollar. As here, the currency has become very much depreciated, and no great is the distrust of the "greenback," that persons in the North believe are the chief cause of the fall in value. Banks and speculators here do with their Confederate notes—by buying houses, lots, diamonds, watches, etc., anything to convert them into what they believe to be of value. This feeding of the greediness of the South, and the North, is the main cause of the reverse sustained by the Monitor & Merrimac. The whole government is carried on by its "peculiar fever." The debt of the North is becoming so enormous, and the rate of interest so high, that three millions of dollars a day that the people see nothing before them but bankruptcy and ruin. No confidence is felt in the bonds and securities, and persons who have money are investing it in real estate and stock. The North, however, is not so bad off as the South, but although they are all the property of Philadelphia, New York and Boston at war with them, they cannot get notes fast enough to meet the demand of its payment. Thousands of its soldiers in the field have not been paid, and Mr. Chase's exchequer is sometimes left empty as a contribution box of a rainy Sunday.

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